2: Gordon E-6, 5 (no date) 1907 AR? Khasi AR?

party to present a pig. The pig is supposed to be sacrificed to a goddess, *Ka ïaï synshar*, i.e. the goddess of the State, but it is invariably eaten by the Siem and the members of the durbar. The Siem then calls out "*Isamin ma khynrow*" (is it not so, young people?) The members of the durbar then reply, "*Iawiid kamin khnis khynrow*" (yes, it is so, young men). Sentences of fine are more often converted to those other punishments nowadays, probably because very few of the Siems possess jails for the reception of criminals. The condemned one in a criminal case frequently serves his time by working for the Siem as a menial servant. The above description, which is based on the account given by the Rev. W. Lewis, with some modifications, may be taken as the usual form of procedure of the Khasi durbar.

Under the heading of division of disputes we may perhaps give a short description of some of the punishments which were inflicted by the Siems and their durbars in criminal cases in ancient times. Murder was punishable by beating the culprit to death with clubs (*ki tongsa ki lyndoo*). The killing, however, of a *nong shah suk*, i.e. a man who seeks for human victims to sacrifice to the monster, a *thlen*, is not considered murder, even now by the Khasis, and the slayer of the *nong shah suk* only has to inform the Siem and deposit Rs. 5, and one pig in the Siem's court. The slaying of a robber also is dealt with in like manner.

The punishment of adultery was imprisonment for life (*ka suk dain noo*), or a fine of Rs. 1,100, and one pig (*ka khadawi spah ewi dak*). Whether such a heavy fine was ever paid is perhaps doubtful, and probably some other form of punishment was substituted for it. A husband finding his wife and a man in *flagrante-delicto* could, as under the law of the ancients, kill both adulterer and adulteress without punishment for murder. He was, however, bound to deposit Rs. 5, and the conventional pig in the Siem's durbar. The punishment for rape (*kaba khmit tyngo*) was imprisonment for life in the case of the woman being married, and a heavy fine and one pig if the woman was a spinster. Arson was punishable with imprisonment for life, or a heavy fine. The punishment for causing people to be possessed by devils (*ka ka ai-kmuid briew*) was

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683 exile (*synteiñsiey pait*); but if a person so possessed died, the
685 sorcerer was buried down a precipice (*pyrwah khanysong*). The punishment for robbery and theft was the stocks (*ka pyndon duwasong*), the infliction of torture, or a punishment known as *kaba dieng adempalon*, by which the culprit was compelled to sit on a bamboo platform under which chillies were burnt. The result of such torture can be better imagined than described.

684 625 Incest, or sexy, which, amongst the Khasis sometimes cohabiting with a member of a man's or woman's own clan, was punishable with exile or a fine of Rs. 500/- and one pig. It is believed by the Khasis that the evils resulting from incestuous connection are very great; the following are some of them: being struck by lightning, being killed by a tiger, dying in childbirth, &c.

METHODS OF TRIAL BY ORDEAL.

1.—*Water Ordeal.*

685 In ancient times the Khasis used to decide certain cases by means of water ordeal (*ka ryndu um*). Yule, writing in 1844, mentions a water ordeal, and one of my Khasi friends remembers to have seen one during his boyhood. There were two kinds of such ordeals. The first, called *ka ryndu lieh*, was as follows:—The two disputants in a case would each of them fix a spear under water in some deep pool. They would then dive and catch hold of the spear. The man who remained longest under water without returning to the surface was adjudged by the Siems and elders to have won the case. Colonel Maxwell, late Superintendent of the Manipur State, witnessed a similar ordeal in the Manipur State in the year 1903, when two Manipuris dived to the bottom of a river and held on to stones, the result being that one man, who remained under water in the most determined way, was very nearly drowned. Amongst the Khasis sometimes the supporters of the contending parties used to compel the divers to remain under water by bobbing them down with their spears. Another form of trial was to place two pots, each of them containing a piece of gold and a piece of silver wrapped up in cloths, in shallow water. The two contending parties

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Deputy-Commissioner for 1873-74 shows that in that year 178
persons in all were brought before the magistrates, the most com-
mon classes of cases being theft and house trespass. In the same 679
year 89 civil suits were instituted, of which 83 were for money
claims, 2 for immovable property, 2 for restitution of conjugal
rights, and 2 in connection with religion and caste. In the Political
Court there were 32 cases tried during the year, of which 13 were
civil and 18 criminal. In the latter class of cases process issued
against 60 persons, of whom 20 were convicted and 40 acquitted.
Two details of the two following cases will illustrate the condition of
social life in the District. The first was a case of grievous hurt. 693 •
The Siem of Mylliem had sent four persons to fetch a man named [594]
U Dorja, who had been selected to marry the Siem's sister. While
on their way the messengers were attacked by a number of persons,
evidently relatives of U Dorja who were opposed to the marriage.
One of them was severely beaten, and died within twelve days from
pneumonia. The offenders, numbering five in all, were sentenced
to pay a fine of Rs. 10 (£1) each, or in default to suffer fourteen days'
imprisonment. The second case was one of oppression. It originated
in a dispute about land, situated in a locality over which both
the Siem of Nongkhlau and the Lyngdoh of Sohiong claimed to
exercise jurisdiction. The parties out of possession had gone to
lay their complaint before the Siem, whereupon the Lyngdoh, with
eight other persons, seized three of the complainants' kinsmen,
ill-treated them, and kept them in durance with the object of having
the complaint submitted to himself for adjudication. The Lyngdoh
was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 50 (£5), and his companions were
warned and discharged.

Jail Statistics.—There are two jails in the Khási and Jáintá 697
Hills:—(1) The jail at Shillong, which is directly under the charge
of the Deputy-Commissioner; and (2) the lock-up at Jowái, under
the Assistant-Commissioner. It has been proposed to build a
new jail at Shillong; the present structure consists only of bamboo
huts, surrounded by a fence of the same material.

The following are the jail statistics for 1873:—Daily average
number of prisoners, 40·32, of whom 1·07 were females; daily
average number of sick, 1·42; number of deaths, 4, or 10 per cent.
of the average daily strength. The total expenditure was Rs. 7430
(£743), or an average of Rs. 181 (£18, 2s.) per prisoner. This
high rate of expenditure is due to the cost of rations at Shillong.